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NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

Executive Registry

63-5880

Room BC 956
Pentagon

22 July 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: CHIEF, MAIL AND COURIER BRANCH (OL/LSD)
GB 1905, LANGLEY HQS.

INFORMATION : DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS (1C-50 QUARTERS-1)
CHIEF, LOGISTICS SERVICES DIVISION (2E24 LANGLEY HQS)

SUBJECT : CIA Courier Servicing of State Cables for NIC

1. Previous to April of this year, CIA's central courier system was providing the service to the National Indications Center (Room BC 956, the Pentagon) in picking up State Department envelopes containing cables and other material (from RCI) on each CIA courier visit to State--a service initiated in March. In turn, these envelopes were delivered to the NIC by the first departing CIA courier from Langley to the Pentagon.

2. This service provided the NIC with its only rapid and timely delivery of State Department cables, particularly on weekends, holidays, and at night. Simultaneously, OCI's courier system also provided pick-up of cables from State/RCI on each of its runs, a process which (combined with OCI central courier service) netted the NIC six to eight cable pickups every 24 hours. However, OCI service on weekends, holidays, and at night is quite limited.

3. In April, CIA central courier system ordered its couriers to stop the pick-up of the NIC envelopes from State/RCI, a move which left the NIC with only OCI courier pickups from State, in turn having the effect of cutting the NIC's deliveries of State material to two times per weekday, and no service at night and very limited service on weekends and holidays. This, in turn, resulted in the NIC's cables arriving as much as 36-48 hours later during normal work days, and three to four days later after weekends than was the case when the CIA central courier service was providing the pick-up from State/RCI. Since the 4th of July, for some reason, the present delay in delivery both on weekdays and weekends is running from three to four days! In effect this negated the purpose for which the system of pick-up was inaugurated in March, i. e., timely delivery during non-working hours.

4. The NIC had thoroughly investigated a system for timely delivery prior to inaugurating it in March, and since the pick-up service was halted in April has again sought alternative methods. Both these efforts clearly show that the CIA central courier pick-up of NIC material from State/RCI is the most efficient channel that can be found

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE NIC

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cc: Lt Gen Marshall S. Carter, Chairman, USB Watch Committee

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both in terms of timeliness for the NIC and in terms of total courier/Registry processing effort. Military courier systems have severe drawbacks on both these scores; State Department maintains no courier system; and registered State Department mail through the US Government Postal System is abysmally slow and relatively insecure, though we have at times used it out of desperation.

5. I, therefore, request that the CIA central courier system resume the pick-up service halted in April (and the accompanying transfer at Langley of NIC-bound envelopes to outgoing Pentagon-bound couriers) as part of CIA's charter obligations to support the NIC under Agency Regulation R 50-205, 14 May 1956 and DCID 1/5, 8 August 1962.



Director
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cc: Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter,
Chairman, USIB Watch Committee
Mr. H. D. Sheldon, A/DDI-CIA
Watch Committee Member
Mr. R. J. Smith, Assistant Dir., OCI
Mr. [redacted], OCI/CS/II

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